



Grace Community Empowerment

January 2014 Newsletter

Greetings and a Happy New Year to all our friends and supporters:

2013 was a year once again filled blessings, joys and tremendous challenges. We never know what to expect. This year in particular has obviously been one filled with more sorrow and tragedy in the wake of the devastation experienced by those who have survived Typhoon Haiyan.

To those whose lives have been full of struggle and care, like ours who has experienced the tragedy of living, the pity of an agonized heart for the unsaved world, whose heart mourned for death of many poor who had not experienced the living Christ.

The Lord spoke to me (*Sharon*): "To you His Followers, to them He gives that Peace and Joy that brings to age its second spring, the youth they sacrificed for Him and for His world... Take each new day as a joyous sunrise gift from God. Your endeavors done in His strength and Love will bring the consciousness of all your highest hopes.

We have great responsibilities with our ministry, among them the forty strong youths under our care (in our ALS & scholars program). We recognize that it is a blessing and a huge responsibility to have an appointment by God to guide these youths in their spiritual walk; helping them by God's grace to fulfill their hopes and future. But we trust in our great God and expect great things from Him as we would for our forty young crusaders of Christ.

We thank you for your continued love and support for us and may God grant you joy, peace and continued growth in 2014 as we strive to deepen our lives in Christ.

Manny and Sharon Pastre

Founders – Grace Community Empowerment

Praise God and Thanksgiving Corner

Examples of His Goodness and Mercy

- ❖ This is the final semester for Jhonna Von to graduate with a degree in Pharmacy. She is one of our young scholars who experienced double amputation as a young child (lost both legs in accident) but continues to overcome many of life's adversities. She is happy and joyful for all of God's provisions.
- ❖ Thanking God for the opening of the GCE elementary and high schools (ALS) this November 16th 2013. Praising God for the 52 out-of-school and over-aged youths that will hear of the Gospel.
- ❖ Grateful to God for the birth of a new adult church and children's church in the Chinese Cemetery last October 13th 2013.
- ❖ Thanking God for a donation that pays for the 10 weeks of Intensive Bible School (Arrows) this coming April 7th 2014.
- ❖ We are grateful to God for a second offer of a mausoleum to house our preschool ministry of 25 children born in the Ludo graveyard. We are thankful to our donors (a doctor and his wife) who fund the lunch feeding for the preschoolers.
- ❖ Thanks to an Australian doctor and his family that financed one of our young scholar's operation. Romnick's palm became gangrene and crippled by an accident. Now his hand is more functional after 2 months in the hospital and many operations.
- ❖ We are grateful for the spirituality of our youths. The Wednesday nights prayer meeting was like Jesus revisited. Praise God.

SHARON HOSPITALIZED FOR 5 DAYS



Flowers from friends and relatives warm Sharon's heart

Sharon was hit by a motor cyclist in September. After a week with the antibiotics given to her, the wound on her left leg worsen. Because of her diabetic condition, Manny suggested to fly to Singapore for medical help. When the doctor saw her at a public hospital, she was admitted immediately. Within 30 minutes, she was already on I.V. antibiotics. The oral medication prescribed to Sharon in the Philippines was incorrect. Being a Singaporean, they were thankful for the Singapore health care system. Thanking God for friends who care for her and her full recovery.

The Year 2013 in review

PLANTED A GRAVEYARD CHURCH

Two years ago, Sharon asked the Lord to open the door for GCE to start a church inside the graveyard. GCE team members have been ministering and reaching out to the cemetery community for over two years. The first year we started feeding rice meals to 60 children every Saturday and ran a 15 children preschool.

We had a pastor, who co-partnered in this ministry. Unfortunately he quit on us 10 months ago and we were left on our own to handle the ministry.

TO DATE: Praise God, this is our second year into the graveyard ministry. By the grace of God, our preschoolers have increased to 25. We have increased to feeding 75 rice meals a week and extending 100 bread rations weekly to the children in the cemetery.

When we sang our praise and worship in the service, we felt the sound of the graveyard exalted the Name of Jesus. We had 15 new converts from our bible study that we conducted every Tuesday morning in the Chinese cemetery. We thank God for answering our prayers.

FEEDING IN DUMPSITE AND CHINESE CEMETERY

We were able to give food to 1147 children in the communities. 693 rice meals and 454 bread rations were given to children of the poor.



Children happily eating their bread



Children with their rice meals



Child Evangelism during feeding

Birth of a new church



On a rainy day, service held inside the mausoleum



Graveyard children's church started on October 13, 2013



GOD BLESS OUR PRESCHOOLS



Using the tombs as writing tables

We have a student body of 74 preschoolers. Our evening university scholars are teaching the preschoolers.

We were blessed to be given a veteran montessori teacher of 20 years who provided training to our 3 teachers and 6 teacher's aides.

FEELING THE COMMUNITY NEEDS THROUGH OUR PRESCHOOLERS

The children we see every day in our preschools give us clear indications of the health issues in the community. The teachers would return to the center complaining of the preschoolers having coughs and colds. We decided to make orange flavored popsicles laced with Vitamin C and give it to our preschoolers and children in our three communities (Umapad Dumpsite, Tomoy Dumpsite and Chinese Cemetery.) After a month of popsicles distribution, our teachers are coming back with happy faces, grateful to God for the popsicles.

FIGHTING MEDICAL ISSUES WITH POPSICLES



WEDDING CRUSADE



Many of our preschoolers are illegitimate children with no birth certificates. The Lord has led us to birth the annual Wedding Crusade event. Already 39 couples have signed up for the October 2014 wedding. 18 are our Chinese Cemetery preschoolers parents. Since June 2013, we have started a Tuesday morning Bible Study for the graveyard community. We hope by April 2014, we will be baptizing some of them.

SALVATION OF THE POOR

2009 - 21 Couples

2010 - 22 Couples

2011 - 57 Couples

2012 - 45 Couples

2013 - 46 Couples

2014TOTAL: **191 COUPLES SAVED AND LEGALLY MARRIED**

ALTERNATIVE LEARNING SYSTEM (ALS)

We thank God that Sharon finished the required training and was accredited by the Philippines Department of Education to start the ALS Program in Cambaro and Bacong.

It has been our burden for many years to reach the out of school street youth, those living in the cemetery and scavenging in the dumpsite. We did our best to survey the areas and we had a successful turn out in our ALS Orientation. The government class intake is normally 20 but we have 52 youth registered for Nov. 16th 2013 start of school. We will be running two sessions.

52 youth means 52 souls that we have the privilege to evangelize and disciple for the next ten months. How great is our God that opens doors for us in reaching the unreached youth in the city.

Manny conducting orientation with youths in ALS program



December 26-31 Evangelistic Dental Mission



5 Day - Evangelistic Dental Mission held in General Santos and Maguindanao, Muslim Mindanao and urban Cebu

TENTMAKERS INSTITUTE

We have 41 tribal youths with us, 20 are in universities, all hoping for the day when they can be pastors as well as professionals. Most of the boys have graduated a ten week Intensive Bible Training and are leading bible studies throughout the week. Whenever they pass a community they served and someone greets them with "Good morning pastor", the words bring them such honour and conviction to finish the race set before them. They are ever grateful to God and the donors that are supporting them in college.

Rudy heads the Bacong base.



Note: We have young tentmaker scholars who need individual sponsorship. If you are interested in supporting this ministry, please email us at gce.development@gmail.com for more information.

A beautiful bird accidentally hit our window glass panel and fainted. After recovery, the boys released this beautiful creature back to the sky.

Biblical Training to Tribal Pastors

October 21-24 - GCE sponsored and conducted a 4 day extension biblical training conference to tribal pastors in the hinder land (Muslim Mindanao).



Fellowship of mothers and preschoolers in Cebu

December 29th – Fellowship gathering of mothers and their preschoolers from our three preschools located in Cebu. Two from the dumpsite community and one from the Chinese cemetery.

CEBU EARTHQUAKE – October 15, 2013

4,000 perish in earthquake



Children gather near the fault line that was discovered in Barangay Anonang, Bohol. ALDO NELBERT BANAYAL

The earth was lowered by ten feet after the earthquake. We thank God that our GCE headquarter in Cebu (*main housing and administrative offices, malnourished program rehab centre and youth church facilities*) and our bible school in Dumaguete suffered minimal damage.

12,000 people die in the wake of Typhoon Haiyan

GCE TYPHOON REBUILDING SUPPORT Showing the Love of Christ

MALNOURISHED MINISTRY



CEBU earthquake and the malnourished children in CCMC hospital

OCTOBER 15, was the day we were supposed to bring home Cheska Amistad from the Cebu City Medical Centre. We went to the hospital to look for our two malnourished children who were due to come to our rehab centre October 15. All the children in the CCMC pediatric ward were sent home. All the patients in the hospital were moved to the public streets. There 2700 tremors felt throughout the past 2 weeks were scary. The hospital was declared unsafe. Please pray for our work in the malnourished program.

Partnership with local pastors for restoration and rebuilding

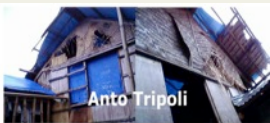


GCE has partnered (and will continue to do so in 2014) with local pastors in the restoration of home which support both local believers and non-Christians.

We hope that this will show non-believers the love of Christ and open doors for relationship building and evangelism.

House: Pricella Sacare
Bantayan, Kawit, cebu

Pastor: Rollie Gerones



Anto Tripoli



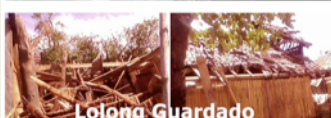
Rosita Guardado



Leonides Arreglado



Elverine Siago



Lolong Guardado



Margie Monterdi



Marife Salinas



Danny Moradas



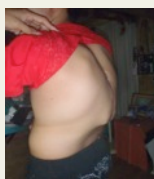
Rita Versosa

We have committed to helping with restoring/rebuilding of 10 homes in Medillin and 10 homes in Baybay

Prayer Needs & Updates

MICHAEL – SPINE OPERATION

The first operation of Michael went well with the implant of a stainless steel vertebrae. Unfortunately after a year, the screw was displaced and his spine was deformed. We prayed for US\$1500 for Michael to have a second operation.



Thankful to God!! Donor funds and supports Michael's operation

PRAYING FOR THE SUPPORT FOR 19 NEW INTERNS FROM THE MUSLIM MINDANAO TO BE TRAINED IN GCE FOR A YEAR



Praise God!!

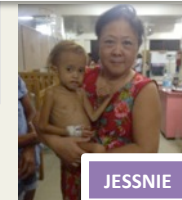
PABLITO needed help. His tumor needed to be removed. The cost was US\$1500 for the operation. By faith, GCE went ahead with his CT scan, biopsy and medicines for his intense pain. We prayed for someone to respond to his operation needs.



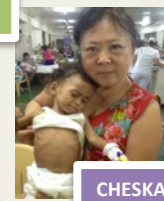
Prayers answered; Australian family funds Pablito's operation

MALNOURISHED CHILD SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

Cheska and Jessnie need to be sponsored. They are new babies from the hospital.



JESSNIE



CHESKA

2014 Planned GCE Ministry Events

Date	Ministry Events
January	Pray for GCE's 1 st evangelistic graveyard community outdoor Gospel Crusade
February	Gathering of our past wedding crusade recipients for a time of empowerment
March	Admission of 40 tribal youths in Arrow Bible/Vocational School, Negros Oriental (youths from Mindanao mountains); 10 weeks Bible school for them
March	Village celebration of scholar Vhon's graduation
April	Graduation ceremony of our 3 preschools (over 75 children)
July	Layman Dental Sealant Training followed by evangelistic dental mission in Cebu (reaching 200)
May	Evangelistic Youth Camp for the unsaved street boys ages 16-25 (about 50 youths)
October	Three days of baptism for our new converts
October	5th Evangelistic Wedding Crusade held in Cebu. We will be marrying 90-100 poor – Gospel message is shared, bible study invitations and legitimacy to children provided.
December	Dental missions in Mindanao

How To Support and Donate to GCE

We covet your prayers. If the Lord moves you to continue or begin supporting GCE financially, please visit our website: www.gceinternational.org
Go to the **DONATE** tab for further instructions.

You can also email us at development.gce@gmail.com with any questions.

Any contributions not designated for a specific GCE ministry area will go to support the general operations and ongoing ministries of GCE. Thank you.